Message Text

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E.O. 11652:XGDS-1 TAGS: ELAB, PINT SUBJ: CONTACTS IN WFTU

REF: PRAGUE 782

- 1. AT THE CONGRESS OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) IN OCTOBER 1977, THERE WERE FOUR PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU): AKIS FANTIS, SECRETARY; ALAIN COVET, SECRETARY OF THE CHEMISTRY TRADE FEDERATION; YVON BEGUIVIN, WFTU JOURNAL EDITOR; AND IRENE STROPNICKA, INTERPRETER (NAMES AND TITLES FROM WCL LISTING OF "TRADE UNION GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE").
- 2. ASIDE FROM A VERY BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH FANTIS, WHOSE REACTION WAS COOL, USEC LABOR ATTACHE MET ONLY BEGUIVIN, WHO SAID HE WAS FRENCH, LIVING IN PRAGUE, AND MARRIED TO A CZECH. IN A CONVERSATION LASTING A FEW MINUTES, BEGUIVIN TOLD USEC LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE NEXT WFTU CONGRESS WOULD BE "HISTORIC," ESPECIALLY IN ITS "OPENCONFIDENTIAL

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NESS." BEGUIVIN ASKED USEC LABOR ATTACHE WHETHER HE WOULD ATTEND CONGRESS, AND WHEN LABATT, SMILING, SAID NO, BEGUIVIN WENT ON SERIOUSLY TO SAY THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PRAGUE MIGHT BE INVITED TO ATTEND "IF IT ASKED," BUT LABATT DID NOT PURSUE THIS POINT.

3. FROM HIS CONTACT WITH USEC LABATT AND ALSO WITH CANADIAN LABOR COUNSELOR, AND FROM OBSERVING HIS RELATIONS

WITH WCL GENERAL SECRETARY JAN KULAKOWSKI, WE WOULD
JUDGE THAT BEGUIVIN MIGHT BE APPROACHABLE BY EMBASSY
PRAGUE FOR A RUNDOWN ON WETU CONGRESS MORRIS

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